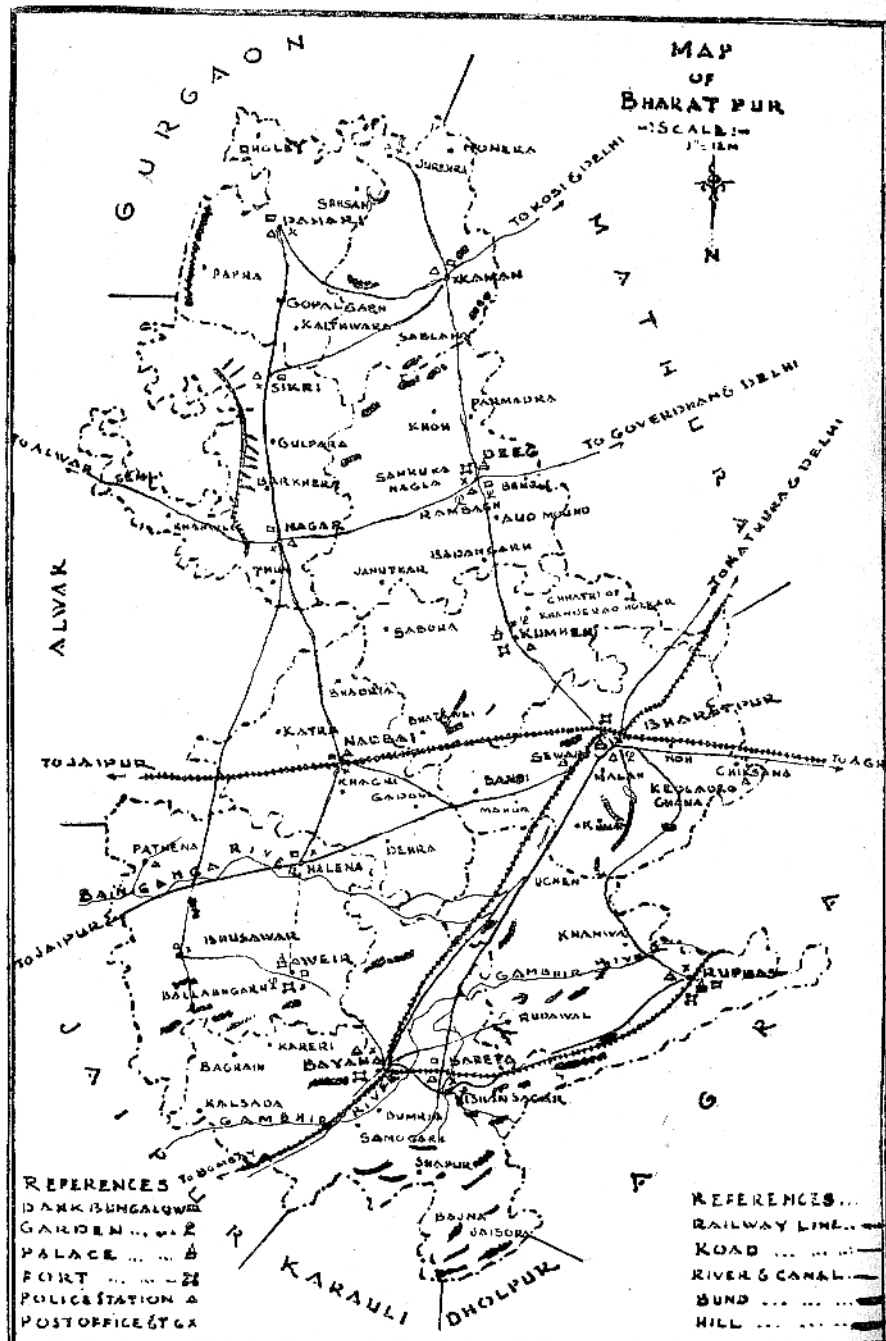




GLIMPSES
OF
GLORIOUS BHARATPUR
A CONSPECTUS



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BHARATPUR

Circled by some of the big towns of India - Delhi (110 miles, Agra (32 miles), Mathura (22 miles), Jaipur (115 miles) lies the historical city of Bharatpur, now the Eastern Gateway of Rajasthan to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and the Punjab. Not long ago it was the capital of the State of that name and occupied, as it does even now, a significant position. It is a junction of broad and meter gauges of the Western Railway from Bombay to Amritsar via Delhi and Ahmedabad into U.P. and is served by three high ways, 1. Delhi to Bharatpur via Kosi or Goverdhan and Deeg (115 miles). 2. Mathura to Bharatpur via Goverdhan (40 miles) and the direct route is 22 miles. 3. It is 32 miles from Agra or Fatehpur Sikri on the main route to Jaipur which is about 115 miles.

The erstwhile State has had a glorious past, glimpses of which can be seen in many places, notable in history, and scattered here and there all over the place. Come, let us have a glance at them.

The Birth Of Bharatpur And Its Fort.

Having defeated one Khem Karan, Maharaja Suraj Mal in the thirties of the Eighteenth Century began the consolidation of his territorial gain and for control and protection, he built a new capital, the third, which might be proof against attack. He thereupon laid the foundation of Bharatpur Fort which has gone down in history as Lohagarh (the Iron-Fort) which has proved to be impregnable. The virginity of the Fort has remained unmolested on account of the ingenious defensive works, conceived and designed under the instructions of the founder. Three walls one round the other, separated by formidable moats afforded protection to the garrison and

the people inside from guns and enemy. The peculiarities of the forts of Suraj Mal were that the outer walls were made of mud so that the cannon balls got stuck without doing any harm to the masonry fort inside. The perimeter of the outermost wall was seven miles. It took eight years to complete the earth work. The Bharatpur fort was completed in 1756 A.D. Of the three walls, the outer most has been raised to the ground and one now sees instead green smiling fields. The second surrounded by a wide moat lies in moralising ruins, still telling its tales. The masonry work of the third is braving the weather and has a deep perennial moat, three chains wide round it. These moats were supplied with water from Kohni Bund which was filled by two rivers close by and is still the main source of water supply to the inhabitants of Bharatpur.

The fort has eight bastions and two gates, the one in the North is known as the Ashtadhati or the Gate of Eight Metals. Historians are of the opinion that it originally belonged to the Sishodia Rajputs of Chittorgarh and was removed to Delhi by Allaiddin Khilji. Maharaja Jawahar Singh brought it from Delhi as a battle trophy. The gate on the South is known as Lohia Darwaza or the Iron Gate. It was also brought by Maharaja Jawahar Singh from Delhi in 1764 and comes from the famous Red Fort.

Burj or Bastions

The fort has eight bastions of which one figures prominently and deserves a little discription, i.e., the Jawahar Burj. The Coronation Ceremony of the Rulers of Bharatpur takes place at Jawahar Burj on one side of which is an Iron Pillar about 12 inches in diameter inscribed in Hindi, describing names of all the Rulers and their collaterals in Genealogical order, descending from times earlier than Lord Krishna to the present

ruler. A short description of important events of the present Ruling Dynasty is also given.

There is another on the outer ramparts known as the Fateh Burj. Both these Bastions constantly remind the inhabitants of the fierce attacks of the Mughals and later the British troops in the early months of 1805 A.D. Bharatpur was attacked heavily four times. The last attack took place on the 22nd February 1805. The attacks were planned by Lord Lake and carried out by Major General Smith and Col. Manson. The attacks lasted twentyfour hours and came from the South and South-east directions. But due to the resolute determination, adequate preparations and breaching of the Kohni Bund the brave soldiers of Bharatpur succeeded in repulsing the enemy in all its attacks which show the high morale of the defenders and the city as a whole. The British in their four successive attacks lost 3203 officers and men. This loss was greater than any they had so far suffered in any battle in India. Maharaja Ranjit Singh Ruler of that time was weary of the enormous expenses of war, he therefore, took advantage of the elevation of General Lake to the peerage and offered his congratulations expressing his desire for peace. The proposal of the Maharaja was accepted by Lord Lake and a Treaty was signed on the 10th April 1805 A.D. This Treaty was based on permanent equal friendship between the East India Company and Sawai Bahadur Ranjit Singh. A Treaty of this nature had never so far been signed between the East India Company and any Maharaja of India.

PALACES

Inside the fort are the palaces of the Rulers. The most prominent of them are Kothi Khas, Kishori Mahal and Mahal Khas. Of these, Mahal Khas is still the official residence of the Maharaja's family. Kishori Mahal houses the District Offices. Kothi Khas

has the audience-chambers locally known as Kamra Khas and Dewan-e-Am, built by Maharaja Balwant Singh. The Rulers held their Durbars in the building, a portion of which is said to be built in European style. The other parts have a Hamam and a Museum located nearby. Among the exhibits are fine sculptures of ancient and mediaeval ages and other articles of interest. A very fine armoury is also located with the Museum. The gardens in front of the Durbar-e-Am are laid in Moghal style and the place is known as Kacheri Kalan. The present Ruler lives in Moti Mahal Palace situated about a mile east of the town, which was built in 1916 A.D. by Maharani Girraj Kaur, the grand-mother of the present Ruler, in white sand stone. The palace is a beautiful specimen of elegant craftsmanship utilising the different architectures of North India.

TEMPLES

1. *Gangamandir*: The construction of this big temple was started by Maharaja Balwant Singh and contributions were made by a unique method where all persons employed in the services of the State were asked to donate one month's salary of their service or any rise in pay towards the shrine. The temple is of beautiful architectural design.

2. *Dalwalon Ka Mandir*: This temple is important for its gate of archaeological beauty.

3. *Lakshman Ji's Temple (New)*: This temple is famous for its beautiful stone work.

4. *Panch Mukhi Hanuman*: It is an 'Ugra Roop' image of God Hanuman and is considered very rare.

5. *Raja Rajeshwari Devi*: This image was said to be the family diety of Prithvi Raj Chauhan, the last Hindu King of Delhi.

6. *Lakshmanji Venkatesh*: Official Gurudwaras of the Ruling family of Bharatpur.

7. *Sirkiwala Hanuman*: This temple is older than Bharatpur town and existed in the midst of thick forests before Bharatpur was founded.

8. *Hardevji's Temple*: Used to be Gurudwara of the Great Maharaja Suraj Mal before he became a disciple of the Nagas and Lakshmanji Venkatesh.

9. *Brijendra Behariji's Temple, Sewar*: This was built by Maharaja Jaswant Singh and was handed over to the Vallabh Kul Sampradaya.

10. *Satyanarainji's and Girdharlal Ji's Temple at Moti Mahal*: These temples were constructed by the present Ruler and were installed with ancient images found in derelict temples round about the State.

11. *Jama Masjid*: This was also started by Maharaja Balwant Singh and was contributed to by donations in the same manner as the Ganga Mandir.

BEGUM SAMRU'S HOUSE

Now a Girl's High School, was built by Begum Samru. The Begum played an important role in Indian History. She married Walter Rhinehard, a German mercenary soldier and supplied troops to the Bharatpur Rulers.

Bharatpur also has some interesting old mounds at village Nhon and Mallah village. *Nhon* is on the Agra road and there is an image of Yaksha of Maurya period and is of archaeological interest. *Mallah* village has remains of ancient habitation from where statues, centuries old, have been unearthed and are in the Bharatpur Museum.

KEOLA DEV GHANA (SANCTUARY)

This Swamp is more than a century old and has been famous duck-shooting resort for the Rulers of Bharatpur. It is about three miles in the South-east direction of the town, and occupies an area of more than twelve square miles of which seven thousand acres is under water. The forest area around the swamps was used to imprison wild cattle at the request of Agra Pargana Administration. Some such cattle are still found in adjacent grass farm lands. The area is a famous winter resort of countless migratory and non-migratory birds. The Wild Life Preservation Board, of India, at the instance of our Prime Minister, Mr. Jawahar Lal Nehru, persuaded the State Government to declare Keola Dev Ghana into a non-migratory bird Sanctuary. Every year many persons of note from near and far visit the area for study of birds and duck-shooting as guests of the present Maharaja. The Ghana Forest and the Swamp are one of the finest and most densely populated bird and wild life sanctuaries in India. The Wild Life Board of Rajasthan has built a rest house in this preserve.

Apart from Spotted Deer, Black Buck, Blue Bull, Sambhar, Wild Boar, Swamp Deer and Panther you can also find the following birds:—

BIRDS OF BHARATPUR

Family Corvidae (Crows)

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) (64)

Treepie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*) (65)

Family Paridae (Titmice)

Grey Tit (*Parus major*)

Family Timalidae

Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides somervillei*) (66)

- ✓ Common Babbler (*Argya caudata*) (51)
- ✓ Large Grey Babbler (*A. malcolmi*) (34)
- Yelloweyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinensis*)

Family Pycnonitidae

- ✓ Redvented Bulbul (*Molpastes cafer*) (26)
- ✓ Whitecheeked Bulbul (*M. leucogenys*) (38)

Family Turdidae (Thrushes)

- ✓ Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*) (55)
- ✓ Collared Bushchat (*S. torquata*) (62)
- Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)
- ✓ Bluethroat (*Cyanosylvia svecica*) (57)
- ✓ Indian Robin (*Saxicoloides fulicata*)
- ✓ Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) (37)
- Orangeheaded Ground Thrush (*Geocichla cyanotis*)

Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers)

- ✓ Redbreasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*) (24)
- ✓ Whitebrowed Fantail Flycatcher (*Rhipidura pectoralis*) (23)

Family Laniidae (Shrikes)

- ✓ Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)
- ✓ Baybacked Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*) (60)
- Rufousbacked Shrike (*Lanius schach*) (43A)

Family Dicruridae

- ✓ Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) (20)

Family Sylviidae (Warblers)

- Tailor Bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) Blue Throat (59)
- Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
- ✓ Ashy Wren-Warbler (*Prinia socialis*)
- ✓ Indian Wren-Warbler (*P. inornata*)
- ✓ Lesser Red-Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) (15)
- ✓ Red Red Warbler (*Acrocephalus abietinus*) (16)

Family Regulidae (Goldcrests)

Firecrested Tit-Warbler (*Cephalopyrus flammiceps*)

Family Sturnidae (Starlings)

Common Starling (*Pastor roseus*)✓ Brahminy Myna (*Temenuchus pagodarum*) (71)✓ Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (72)✓ Bank Myna (*A. ginginianus*) (73)✓ Pied Myna (*Sturnopastor contra*) (33)
Roe Finch (2)

Family Fringillidae (Finches & Buntings)

✓ Yellowthroated Sparrow (*Gymnorhis xanthocollis*) (43B)✓ House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) (74)

Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)

Sand Martin (*Riparia paludicola*)European Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)Wiretailed Swallow (*H. filifera*)

Family Motacillidae (Pipits and Wagtails)

✓ White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) (59)Large Pied Wagtail (*M. maderaspatensis*)Grey Wagtail (*M. cinerea*)✓ Yellowheaded Wagtail (*M. citreola*) (43)

Family Alaudidae (Larks)

Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella* sp.)✓ Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) (61)

Family Nectariniidae

✓ Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris asiatica*) (57)

Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)

✓ Mahratta Woodpecker (*Dryobates mahrattensis*) (48)✓ Goldenbacked Woodpecker (*Brachypternus benghalensis*) (41)

Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

✓ Crow-Pheasant (*Centropus sinensis*) (19)

Family Psittacidae

✓ Roseringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) (17)

Family Coraciidae

✓ Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) (22)

Family Meropidae

✓ Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) (47)

Family Alcedinidae

✓ Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)✓ Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)✓ Whitebreasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) (32)

Family Upupidae

✓ Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) (29)

Family Asionidae

✓ Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) (3)✓ Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*)

Family Pandionidae

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Family Aegypiidae

King Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*)✓ Whitebacked Vulture (*Pseudogyps bengalensis*) (44)✓ White Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) (49)

Family Falconidae

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)Kestrel (*F. tinnunculus*)

- ✓ Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*) (7)
 Spotted Eagle (*A. clanga*)
 ✓ Pallas's Fishing Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*) (10)
 Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)
 ✓ Pariah Kite (*Milvus migrans*) (78)
 ✓ Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) (79)
 Shikra (*Astur badius*)
 Slender Bittern (58)

Family Columbidae

- ✓ Green Pigeon (*Crocopus phoenicopterus*)
 ✓ Blue Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)
 ✓ Brown Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) (40)
 ✓ Ringed Dove (*S. decaocto*) (15)
 Red Turtle Dove (*Oenopopelia tranquebarica*)

Family Pteroclididae

- Common Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*)

Family Phasianidae

- ✓ Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) (21)
 ✓ Grey Partridge (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) (35)

Family Rallidae

- ✓ Whitebreasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
 ✓ Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) (52)
 ✓ Coot (*Fulica atra*) (46)

Family Jacanidae

- Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)
 Bronzewinged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*)

Family Gruidae

- Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*)
 ✓ Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*) (45)

Family Sternidae

- River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*)

Family Charadriidae

- ✓ Redwattled Lapwing (*Lobivanellus indicus*) (30)
 Blackwinged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Family Scolopacidae

- Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)
 Common Sandpiper (*T. hypoleucos*)
 ✓ Spotted Sandpiper (*T. glareola*) (42)
 Redshank (*T. totanus*)

Family Phalacrocoracidae

- Large Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
 Indian Shag (*P. fuscicollis*)
 ✓ Little Cormorant (*P. niger*) (2)
 ✓ Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) (5)

Family Plataleidae

- Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Family Ibisidae

- White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)
 Black Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosus*)

Family Ciconiidae

- White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)
 ✓ Whitenecked Stork (*Dissoura episcopus*) (1)
 ✓ Blacknecked Stork (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) (2) Black-headed Stork
 Painted Stork (*Ibis leucocephalus*) (4)
 Openbilled Stork (*Anastomus oscitans*)

Family Ardeidae

- ✓ Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) (7)
- ✓ Grey Heron (*A. cinerea*) (6)
- Large Egret (*Egretta alba*)
- ✓ Lesser Egret (*E. intermedia*) (53) *middle Egret*
- Little Egret (*E. garzetta*)
- ✓ Pond Heron (*Ardeola grayii*) (81)
- ✓ Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) (9) *Neck very short in flight*

Family Anatidae

- Grey-lag Goose (*Anser anser*)
- Barheaded Goose (*A. indicus*)
- Nukka Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotus*)
- Cotton Teal (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)
- Brahminy Duck (*Casarca ferruginea*)
- ✓ Spotbill (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) (12)
- Gadwall (*A. strepera*)
- Wigeon (*A. penelope*)
- Common Teal (*A. crecca*)
- ✓ Pintail Duck (*A. acuta*) (11)
- ✓ Bluewinged Teal (*A. querquedula*) (14)
- ✓ Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*) (13)
- Common Pochard (*Nyroca ferina*)
- White-eyed Pochard (*N. rufa*)
- Tufted Pochard (*N. fuligula*)

KUMHER

It was the second capital of the Bharatpur State and was founded by Kumbi Jat of Sinsini. Maharaja Badan Singh, father of Maharaja Suraj Mal built the palaces and a fortification round the town in 1722.

The Jal Mahal (or Lake Pavilion) is a beauty spot on the banks of a large tank.

Near Kumher is the Chhatra of *Khandeo Rao Holkar*. This Chhatra (Cenotaph) is off the main road and was built by Maharaja Suraj Mal for Khande Rao Holkar who died there on returning after his defeat in the Third Battle of Panipat. This Chhatra was built near about 1764 A.D. in the Hindu style of Architecture.

DEEG

The place is famous for its palaces and gardens laid with fountains in the Mughal style and the fort. It is 22 miles from Bharatpur. The beautiful palaces were started by Maharaja Badan Singh and added to by Maharaja Suraj Mal and Maharaja Jawahar Singh. They were modernised by Maharaja Jaswant Singh. According to the Historian Thronton, the palaces of Deeg are only second to the Taj Mahal Agra in perfection of workmanship. They were built of local white sand stone, quarried from the hills at Bayana. Their most interesting architectural points are the Double Chhajjas (Eves) and the huge tank on an upper storey of a building which holds six lakh gallons of water for the fountains. The pipes to these fountains are made of clay covered with cloth and lime mortar. Copper pipes are only used at the heads of the fountains of stone. These are even laid out inside the various palaces.

GOPAL BHAWAN

The main building in the quadrangle facing the East is Gopal Bhawan. It is the largest of all the palaces and is seven storied with spacious and beautiful halls. It also has the famous white and black marble slabs, which were originally brought by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir to Delhi from Allahabad and Maharaja Jawahar Singh brought them to Deeg. In front of the Gopal Bhawan are large sand stone slabs measuring 36' x 3'. They were originally girders of the main hall and were brought-

by bullock carts from quarries at Baretha, a distance of 50 miles.

THE MARBLE SWING

This originally belonged to the Nawabs of Oudh and was brought to Deeg by Maharaja Jawahar Singh (as a war trophy). The floor slabs of this swing come from some historical bastion of Delhi.

SURAJ BHAWAN

On the south of the quadrangle is the Suraj Bhawan built of marble quarried at Makrana at Jodhpur and skilfully ornamented by in-lay work of semi-precious stones. It once decorated the Red Fort of Delhi. After the Great Maharaja Suraj Mal was treacherously murdered at Shahdra near Delhi, this palace was dismantled from the fort in 1765 A.D. and was removed to Deeg by his son Maharaja Jawahar Singh who got it pieced together in memory of his beloved father and renamed it after him.

NAND BHAWAN

It is in the North of the quadrangle and was the Durbar-e-Am of the Rulers of Bharatpur since 1863.

MACHHI BHAWAN

This palace is famous for its fountains and its thunder producing device, in the hollow of its roof. This was worked by some stone balls which when rolled by the pressure of water produced noises like thunders. Unfortunately the device was permanently stopped when King Edward the Seventh visited Deeg as it was considered unsafe for the Royal visitor. They have never been restored.

FORT

Next in importance to that of Bharatpur is the fort of

Deeg. The outer mud wall is now in ruins but the huge masonry construction is still intact and is surrounded by a perennial moat. The big towers have huge mounted cannons which had a range of 18 miles. The magazines and big godowns known as 'Khas' were built under-ground (in 1803 A.D. and 1805 A.D.).

AU MOUND

It is situated on the main road between Kumher and Deeg, and was an out-post of Mughals where fierce battles between the Mughals and the chivalrous Jats were fought. A decisive battle was fought between a Mughal Subedar and Thakur Raja Ram of Sinsini (the founder of the present ruling family of Bharatpur) resulting in the complete annihilation of the Mughal rule in this area.

RAM BAGH

On the road to Nagar lies the Rambagh (gardens). It has a beautiful pavilion famous for its paintings. The pavilion and the gardens were built as places of recreation by Begum Samru.

About a furlong from the Ram Bagh on a ridge is mud tower built by Lord Lake in 1802. His flat trajectory guns were mounted here to effectively engage the garrison in the Deeg Fort. The 150 years old tower in the form of fortress still stands to remind one of the historical struggles.

When Lord Lake conquered Deeg and the Ruler retreated to Bharatpur, for the first time in history of Horse Cavalry cannons were drawn from Deeg to Bharatpur for speed purposes as before they were usually drawn by elephants and bullocks.

SAMRU KA NAGLA

It is a small village about a mile from Deeg on the West. This village was awarded as a means of livelihood by Begum Samru to her husband Walter Rhinehard. Some old family graves and an engraved stone on the wall of a well corroborate the fact.

GOVERDHAN

Shri Girraj Ji is the family diety of the present dynasty and is not only worshipped by the Ruling family of Bharatpur but by the entire population of Braj.

MANASI GANGA

The tank is famous for its scenic beauty and is surrounded by temples where devotees come from long distances to bathe and pray. The most notable feature of Goverdhan is the annual Deewali Fair when little earthen-ware lamps are burnt on the bank of the lake and only pure melted butter is used even to this day. The devotees also travel bare-foot along a pilgrimage of 14 miles round this sacred hill of Shri Girrajji. According to Mythology, Lord Krishna lifted it to give shelter to the oppressed.

According to the ancestral custom the members of the Ruling House of Bharatpur are all cremated at Goverdhan. Large number of monuments have been erected in the form of Chhatris (Cenotaphs). All of them have beautiful roof and wall paintings in Rajasthani style and are richly ornamented in stone carving.

KUSUM SAROVAR

It is a beautiful tank about two miles North of Goverdhan. It is crowned by the magnificent monumented Chhatra, raised

in memory of Maharaja Suraj Mal who, although was cremated on the banks of Jamuna at Shahdara near Delhi, this Chhatra was erected over his ashes which were brought from there and is built in the Hindu style of Architecture of white sand stone brought from the Bayana hills.

KAMA

Chaurasi Khambha

Kama, about 40 miles North of Bharatpur, is a very old sacred town of the Hindus and a part of Braj where Lord Krishna resided in his early life. It is also known as Kamaban. There are remains of an old mosque consisting of 84 pillars called Chaurasi Khambha. Kama had also been under the rule of Jaipur but was conquered and annexed by Maharaja Jawahar Singh.

There is a tank at Kama named Bimal Kund surrounded on all sides by temples and Chhatris built in memory of ancient rulers. Kama is served by a metalled road from Deeg and Kosi.

PARMADRA VILLAGE

Five miles from Deeg on the Kama road is the village of Parmadra. It is known as 'Sudama Puri' of the epic period and has a Sudama temple. The temple is visited every year by a large number of pilgrims.

BAYANA

It is situated about 28 miles away in the South-east direction of Bharatpur, between two ranges of Arawali hills and lies on the old route between Fatehpur Sikri and Rajputana. Amongst many note-worthy battles the first was fought between Vijai Pal, the ruler of Bayana and Asand Salar nephew of

Mohammad of Ghazni in 1030 A.D. and the forces of 'Jahadis' killed Bijai Pal. The tombs now scattered about Bayana are supposed to be those of the Jahadis.

BAYANA FORT

The Bayana Hills are covered with the remains of large buildings. The fort which is the biggest, was built by the famous Hindu King, Banasur, in the times of Lord Krishna and was renovated by Maharaja Bijai Pal, in whose time the two families of Karauli and Bharatpur separated. The other brother built a fort known as Timangarh laying the foundations of the former State of Karauli. The Bharatpur Ruling Family are the descendants of Bijai Pal. The fort is considered the third largest in India and covers an area of 10 square miles. The palace a high tower, and Bhim Lath (the staff of Bhim) stands out as a land mark. Usha Mandir is also worth visiting in the present town.

It is believed that Shahabuddin in 1195 before laying seige to Gwalior, took Bayana.

In 1491 Bayana again gained importance when Sikandar Lodi, the Pathan Monarch of Delhi, laid seige to the fort.

In 1526 Babar described it as one of the most famous forts in India. It was then held by an Afghan chief who surrendered it to Babar. Several other battles between the Rajput Princes, Mughals, and Marhattas were fought near Bayana. The Mughal Emperor Akbar witnessed a March Past of his troops from a place near Bayana town, known as 'Chardari' and has the inscription on it.

KISHAN SAGAR

It is situated in the famous stone producing Baretha hills, connected by road and rail from Bayana direct from Bharatpur

via Uchchain and by train from Agra.

The Dam work was started during the rule of Maharaja Jaswant Singh on the river Kakund which flows in a valley of the Arawali Hills.

The lake is nine miles long with a net work of picturesque back waters forming a scenic wonder. On the Eastern ridge His late Highness Maharaja Kishan Singh built a beautiful palace overlooking the lake.

The lake is nesting ground of a number of birds, and the hills a favourite haunt of big game (tigers etc.). For tourists there is a very nice Dak-bungalow below the Dam. Kishan Sagar makes a wonderful fishing, boating and bird-watching holiday resort during the winter and monsoon months.

WEIR

Nearly two hundred years ago Weir was founded by Maharaja Suraj Mal. He built a fort, palaces and (Mughal) gardens. Pratap Singh, the second son of Maharaja Suraj Mal and brother of the famous Maharaja Jawahar Singh lived there. The palace is made to look like Deeg. The fort is also very beautiful and of interest from archaeological point of view.

RUP BAS

Now the headquarters of a Tehsil, was said to have been founded by a Rup Singh who was originally a descendant of the Chittor Maharanas and embraced Islam in the reign of Akbar the Great. There is a beautiful palace and a tank still in existence, though dilapidated. Being near Fatehpur Sikri, Emperor Akbar and Jahangir used Rup Bas palaces as shooting lodge. The Mughal Emperor Jahangir is supposed to have seen the famous Anarkali for the first time in the forests at

Rup Bas when she was passing through with her parents, for Agra.

Five miles from Rup Bas is an ancient temple with images carved in rock, each 20 ft. long and of Archaeological interest.

KHANWA

The name brings back to us all the glory and chivalry of old warriors. It was here that Babar by defeating Rana Sanga in a terrible carnage in 1527-28 established the glorious Mughal rule in India.

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